

RHODE ISLAND DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY

Municipal Police Training Academy

Community College of Rhode Island — Flanagan Campus

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Colonel Steven G. O'Donnell Sergeant Scott N. Raynes

Commissioner, Department of Public Safety Executive Director

Superintendent, Rhode Island State Police Municipal Police Training Academy

Police Officers Commission on Standards & Training

Meeting Minutes

February 21, 2013

1. Welcome and Roll Call

Chief Anthony Pesare called to order the regular meeting of the Police Officers Commission on Standards & Training (POST) at 2:00 p.m. on February 21, 2013 at RI Municipal Police Academy, Lincoln, RI.

Chief Pesare asked Donna Lavallee to take a roll call. The following POST members were present: Chief Anthony Pesare, Chief Edward Mello, Colonel Marco Palombo, Colonel Steven G. O'Donnell and Mr. Shawn Brown. Also present were Sergeant Scott Raynes, Captain

David Ricciarelli, Mr. Richard B. Woolley, Esq., Trooper Thomas Chabot, Lieutenant Colonel Wilfred Hill and Captain Ernest Quarry. Also present in the room were Chief Richard Ramsay-West Greenwich P.D., Mr. Paul Dutra and Mr. Paul Brouillette of the RI Interlocal Trust.

At this time, Chief Pesare congratulated Chief Mello on his appointment to Vice chair of the POST and welcome Colonel Palombo as the newly-appointed member. He also made mention of the re-appointment of Mr. Brown and that he humbly accepts the position of Chairman of the POST. He expresses his gratitude to Colonel Stephen McCartney for his dedication and service over the past 10 years as a POST member and Chair. At this time, Chief Pesare congratulated Lt. Colonel Wilfred Hill on his recent promotion.

2. Approval of the minutes

Chief Pesare asked for approval of the minutes from the last meeting dated November 20, 2012 and from the Special Meeting of January 11, 2013. Mr. Brown made a motion to accept the minutes; Chief Mello seconded the motion. After no further discussion and all in favor (5-0), the motion carries and minutes were accepted.

3. Rhode Island Municipal Police Academy Personnel Overview

• Colonel Steven G. O'Donnell

Colonel O'Donnell began by stating that any assistance that is given to the Police Academy from agencies are welcome. As for the consolidation of the Police Academies, he is looking at about 2-3 years, all depending on the "Google" monies. Colonel O'Donnell informed everyone that the State Police infrastructure has changed

recently and Captain Ernest Quarry is now the Director of Training. Lieutenant Colonel Hill stated that the focus is on the new Use of Force policy. Currently, the State Police instructors are working with Major Barzykowski so everyone is on the same page. All training should be the same and he would eventually like to see the Role Play instruction coordinated with the State Police and have over 70 recruits there together. He re-enforced the fact that it is because of the municipal instructional staff that makes this Academy what it is~they are what makes this place tick. Colonel O'Donnell agreed and stated that it is actually an expense to assign three troopers here. Chief Pesare thanked Sergeant Raynes for his presentation at the Chief's meeting last week. He stated that it went a long way with all the chief's. He also stated that there needs to be some talk about the role of the POST. He has some issues with the wording and would like to work on that. Chief Mello also thanked Sergeant Raynes for his presentation and said it was very well received by all.

4. Discussion on P.O.S.T. Authority:

- **Ms. Lisa Holley**

Colonel O'Donnell stated that Lisa Iacoi was planning on making the presentation but she is delayed and we should table this discussion for later in the meeting.

5. Request from W. Greenwich P.D. regarding waiver candidate

- **Chief Richard Ramsay**

Chief Ramsay explained that he has a waiver candidate, Mr. Meehan, presently at the Academy as part of this recruit class. He is

scheduled to complete his requirements on May 2nd. He is asking the POST to certify him on March 29th due to manpower issues in his department. Colonel Palombo asked if he has been attending the Academy and Chief Ramsay replied, yes, he has been here since Day One. Chief Pesare asked if this has ever been addressed and David Ricciarelli replied yes, once for Block Island. He said a certificate would be issued with the stipulation that he complete the remainder of the trainings. Chief Pesare stated he has an issue with this and the legality of it. Chief Mello said that this issue of conditional certification has been discussed for over a year and a half and is concerned for setting a precedence. Colonel Palombo asked Mr. Dutra of the Trust if this would cause any liability to the Academy. Mr. Dutra replied that the Trust relies on POST determination and would cover them with the POST backing. Chief Pesare stated that the POST has the ability to certify, but not conditionally. Mr. Brown asked Chief Ramsay about the FTO program and Chief Ramsay replied that the modified FTO program has been fine. Chief Mello asked if we are able to get the records from the State of New York, could we re-convene the POST and Sgt. Raynes replied yes. Captain Ricciarelli stated that the Active Shooter program in New York is very aggressive and very compatible with our instruction; however, it is very difficult to get their records. Chief Pesare stated that it sounds like we are not getting the full picture from New York. Colonel O'Donnell suggested that he feels it is a bad practice if we do not have all our facts. Until we can be sure he completed all instruction and not just pieces, he doesn't feel it is a good practice. Sergeant

Raynes agreed that it would be setting a precedent. Mr. Woolley concurred that if approved, this would set a precedent and the Trust hangs on to the POST decision. If he (the waiver officer) gets in a jam, they will look at DPS and the State. Colonel Palombo made a motion to take a vote as to whether or not to certify Mr. Meehan. Chief Pesare asked for a roll call to vote to approve Mr. Meehan. 0 approved, 5 opposed, all in favor 5-0. Motion denied to approve Mr. Meehan.

Chief Pesare asked Chief Ramsay if he understands the ruling and Chief Ramsay said he understood completely.

6. Presentation of the Annual Report to the Commissioner of D.P.S.

- **Sgt. Raynes**

Sgt. Raynes stated that as a result of the January 11, 2013 POST meeting, Colonel McCartney brought up a law which states that the POST provide an Annual Report to the DPS Commissioner; therefore he is presenting the 2012 Annual Report to Colonel O'Donnell at this time.

- **Discussion-Mission Statement-Chief Anthony Pesare**

Chief Pesare stated that he took the liberty of revising the Mission Statement and asked the POST to approve it. Colonel O'Donnell made a motion to accept the newly-worded Mission Statement and Chief Mello seconded the motion. With all in favor 5-0, motion carries.

Mr. Brown made a motion to include the new Mission Statement in the Annual Report and submit same to the Superintendent. Chief Mello seconded the motion.

- **Discussion-Instructor Manpower hours-Chief Mello**

For discussion only, Chief Mello stated that every now and then, the subject of attaching fees to attend the Academy come up and because of that, it would be a good idea to know what the contributions are from the municipalities to the Academy as far as instructors. He asked if it was possible to track the number of hours that instructors assist us. Sergeant Raynes replied that he has already looked into this and discussed with the staff and it can be done; however, it may not be 100% accurate. Colonel Palombo stated that police officers are used to signing in and he doesn't see a problem with that policy. Colonel O'Donnell sees it as a good thing and Captain Ricciarelli agreed that it should also be utilized for the usage of facilities (ranges, classrooms, etc) and in-service trainings. Lt. Colonel Hill asked if we could send something to the instructional staff to advise them of this new policy and Colonel O'Donnell stated he didn't feel we should get too petty over it...perhaps have them call their hours in even weekly and Donna could keep a tally until the end of the class. Chief Pesare asked the staff to begin instituting this policy of tracking instructors.

7. Approval of West Warwick/Coventry Department SWAT team re-certification

Sergeant Raynes explained that the re-certification was approved by RITOA. Colonel Palombo made a motion to approve the re-certification of the West/Warwick Coventry SWAT team and Colonel O'Donnell seconded the motion.

Chief Mello asked if there is a Mutual Aid Agreement between the two

towns. He stated to be sure there is an agreement in place. Mr. Dutra of the Trust replied and stated that he just met with both Chiefs and there is an agreement in place. Chief Mello stated he would like to amend the motion to include approval of the West Warwick/Coventry Department SWAT team pending the submission of a mutual aid agreement. Colonel O'Donnell made a motion to approve subject to providing a copy of the agreement, Mr. Brown seconded the motion.

8. Update on Class 2013-I, 120th Session

- Trooper Chabot**

Trooper Chabot stated that we currently have 35 recruits and are in the 7th week of training. He thanked Chief Pesare for providing Officer Barth as the CTO-he is doing a great job! He also stated that he is having a difficult time in finding the next CTO. Chief Pesare stated to let him know if we are in a bind and he will be happy to bring it up at the next Chief's meeting. There was then some discussion on the P/T format and Trooper Chabot stated that P/T is the same as it has always been. Officer Maiato is the Lead Instructor and follows a binder. The book is kept with us and every instructor can follow it. Colonel Palombo stated that one of his recruits washed during the first week and it was handled appropriately. He asked if the regimen has changed at all. Sergeant Raynes answered absolutely not. In regards to moving to Camp Fogarty for the first week, the recruits are tasked physically and mentally and have more of a military mind-set. They are not receiving P/T instruction every day as they have Use of Force in between. Recruits come in at about 40% and leave at 60% or above. Lt. Colonel Hill stated that the military facet may have

changed due to Corporal Jones being assigned here. Captain Ricciarelli stated that the physicality of it hasn't changed; however, change in general is necessary.

9. Update on Continuing Education

- **Captain Ricciarelli**

Captain Ricciarelli explained that we have four new partnerships (DOT, IACP, AMU & RI Resource Recovery) which have agreed to co-host continuing education trainings. We have \$28,700 in ARRA funds, for which we are funding two FTO programs, 1 First Line Supervisor and a Cooper school. We also are purchasing new computers and printers.

10. Certification of Academy Instructors

- **Sergeant Scott Raynes**

Sgt. Raynes asked that all the instructors included in the packet be approved for certification. Most of them are the newly-formed Drill Instructor Cadre and a few Firearms Instructors which were never brought before the POST for approval. Colonel Palombo then asked the members if they felt it was an issue that he continue to instruct Ethics and no one had an issue with it. Lt. Colonel Hill praised the newly formed Drill Instructor Cadre and stated he was present at Day One and they did a phenomenal job! Mr. Brown made a motion to approve the certification of all Instructors on the agenda and Colonel Palombo seconded the motion. All in favor, 5-0, motion carries.

Colonel Palombo then asked if there have been any recent law suits naming the Academy and Mr. Woolley stated no.

11. Adjournment

Motion from Colonel O'Donnell to adjourn the meeting and seconded by Chief Mello. The meeting was adjourned at 3:30 pm by Chief Anthony Pesare.

Minutes submitted by: Donna M. Lavalley, Administrative Assistant